

RATIFICATION

This policy was ratified by the active membership on March 23, 2025.

SUPERSESSON

This policy supersedes the POLICY ON POINTS SYSTEM & REGALIA ELIGIBILITY dated February 16, 2025.

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

The points system defined herein shall divide the Chapter's active membership into three levels:

1. Deficient
2. Satisfactory
3. Outstanding

Each member's eligibility for regalia shall be defined herein based on their membership level during their graduation semester. This policy shall not govern the voting rights of members, nor shall it govern the repealing of active membership status as defined by the Constitution of Tau Beta Pi. However, this policy shall provide the Advisory Board with guidance as to when such an action is appropriate, but the Board shall retain its Constitutional authority to make such actions at will.

ADMINISTRATION

The points system shall be administered via the Chapter's Canvas course. The following custom grading scheme shall automatically assign membership levels based on each member's total score in the Canvas gradebook, with 'X' representing a member's total gradebook score:

$00.00\% \leq X < 33.33\%$	=	Deficient
$33.33\% \leq X < 66.66\%$	=	Satisfactory
$66.66\% \leq X$	=	Outstanding

Scores shall be calculated cumulatively across all periods during which the member has had an active student role in the Canvas course. Canvas roles shall be assigned in accordance with other Chapter policies.

GRANTING & TRACKING POINTS

Points shall be granted via Canvas assignments and surveys. Assignment groups shall be weighted as described herein. Attendance records shall be maintained and made readily available in accordance with Chapter policies. Scoring for each assignment type shall be assigned as discussed in the commentary.

WEIGHTING OF POSITIVE GRADES

To achieve the first two goals set forth in the commentary and to provide credit for former officers as discussed in the commentary, positive group weights shall be set as follows:

ATTENDANCE – Initiations, signature socials, & Chapter banquets	20%
ATTENDANCE – Regular meetings	20%
ATTENDANCE – Community service events	20%
ATTENDANCE – College service events	20%
ATTENDANCE – Engineering Futures seminars	5%

ATTENDANCE – Other events	5%
GRADED SURVEYS – Questionnaires	10%
Total	100%

OBSOLETE GROUPS

ATTENDANCE – Executive meetings	10%
GRADED SURVEYS – Candidate elections & officer elections	20%
Total	30%

WEIGHTING OF NEGATIVE GRADES

To achieve the third goal set forth in the commentary, weights of assignment groups containing negative points shall be set as follows:

DEBTS – Fines & Assessments*	1%
Total	1%

*See the commentary for more information on how to grade fines and assessments.

ELIGIBILITY FOR REGALIA

Headquarters has been instructed to restrict purchases so that regalia may only be purchased by the Chapter. Deficient members shall not purchase or wear any Tau Beta Pi regalia. Satisfactory members may wear graduation tassels and honor cords, which they may purchase from the Chapter. Outstanding members shall receive free honor cords from the Chapter and may also purchase tassels from the Chapter. Only satisfactory or outstanding members who have served or are serving as Chapter officers or active committee members shall be eligible to wear stoles, which may be purchased from the Chapter. The status of active committee members will be determined by the relevant Chapter officer and approved through a vote by the executive committee.

REGALIA PURCHASES, REQUESTS, & DISTRIBUTIONS

The Chapter shall maintain a reasonable stock of cords to be granted to or purchased by outstanding or satisfactory members, respectively. The Chapter does not stock stoles or tassels, and requests for these items shall be made at the beginning of the semester of graduation. Every request shall be accompanied by a full non-refundable payment, and the Chapter shall not order stoles or tassels until the requestor has paid in full. No regalia will be distributed before the first day of the last two full weeks of graduation semesters, unless it is distributed during the chapter banquet following initiation. Either the Membership & Regalia Committee or its advisor shall collect payments, issue receipts, and distribute regalia. Regalia pricing shall be defined by Chapter policies.

REGALIA REFUNDS

Should a satisfactory or outstanding member place a regalia order and then finish their graduation semester with deficient status, they will not be eligible to receive said regalia and will not be eligible for a refund, for the Chapter purchased regalia, per their request, in exchange for the consideration that said member would fund the regalia order and would also maintain at least satisfactory member status for the rest of their

graduation semester. Time is of the essence with respect to order requests. Should a member make an order request for a stole or tassel after than the eighth week of their semester of graduation, they will not be eligible for a refund if their ordered regalia does not arrive before their graduation ceremony. The Chapter will exert reasonable effort in delivering to them any regalia which arrives after graduation. The Chapter will refund the cost of any regalia ordered during or prior to the eighth week of a member's graduation semester that is not delivered to the Chapter before their graduation ceremony.

GUIDANCE FOR THE ADVISORY BOARD

It is the recommendation of this policy that the Advisory Board should review all members' membership levels at the end of each semester, after initiation and banquet attendance grades have been entered into the Canvas gradebook, and that the Board should inactivate any member(s) with a deficient membership status at that point in time.

QUESTIONS & CONCERNS

Any member with concerns or questions about the points system shall first contact the Director of Membership & Regalia (DMR) to seek answers or resolutions. If they are unable to reach the DMR, or to find a resolution with the DMR, then they shall contact the President. If they are unable to reach the President, or to find a resolution with the president, then they shall contact the Chapter's Chief Advisor.

COMMENTARY ON PURPOSE

PURPOSE: The Kansas Gamma points system was created to provide a long-term solution to the issue of low general member participation in events and Chapter operations by incentivizing active participation, and by providing the Advisory Board with guidelines on when it is most appropriate to terminate a member's active status. The system is not a means of mandating participation, nor is it a punishment for poor participation. The system incentivizes participation and protects the symbolic value of Tau Beta Pi regalia so that it will represent distinguished scholarship, exemplary character, and the members' dedication to the success of the Kansas Gamma Chapter in the fostering of liberal culture and the pursuit of its mission.

Regalia is a reward granted at the Chapter's discretion. Students understand that professors do not grant A's in exchange for minimal effort. Similarly, the Chapter will not grant regalia in exchange for completing only candidacy requirements. Members should recall that, during their initiation ceremony, they each took an oath to heartily perform their duties both to their Chapter and to Tau Beta Pi, and to preserve the continuity of their Chapter, so that future students may be honored just the same. Ergo, the points system incentivizes members to uphold their oath.

COMMENTARY ON WEIGHTED ASSIGNMENT GROUPS

In the Chapter's Canvas course, points-based assignments are subdivided into individual weighted categories, or *assignment groups*, for three reasons: Firstly, for the Chapter to effectively accomplish its mission and maintain an active appearance, it is imperative that members participate in events. Secondly, active participation in certain events is paramount to fulfilling both the Chapter's objectives and its obligations to the Tau Beta Pi Association, and the Chapter must establish a quorum at its regular meetings to conduct business. Therefore, Canvas assignments groups are defined herein based on their importance regarding the Chapter's mission. Three front-of-mind goals guided the selection of group weights:

1. The points system must allow deficient members to work their way up to satisfactory status.
2. The system must not allow one to gain points too rapidly, as that could lead to high initial participation followed by little to no participation.
3. The system must provide accountability by specifically enforce the repayment of debts owed to the Chapter.

COMMENTARY ON FORMER OFFICER CREDIT

Previous versions of this policy allowed for formerly elected officers to receive points for credit for their service upon finishing their term and returning to general membership. These provisions were never actually used, and it was decided that former officers should have no special treatment and should have the same responsibilities as any other general members.

COMMENTARY ON OBSOLETE GROUPS

In spring 2024, the Chapter returned to strict adherence to its Bylaws. Before then, regular meetings were a thing of the past, and the Executive Board (Committee) met in place of the general body to execute chapter business. After then, executive meetings were no longer held publicly. Therefore, there are no new opportunities for members to earn credit by attending Executive meetings. The assignment group was not deleted though, because some of the current members still had credit for assignments in that group. It is the recommendation of this policy to delete the Executive Meetings assignment group whenever all students

who had credit for an assignment in the group have graduated. Further, this policy recommends that the group for Candidate and Officer Elections be deleted once students who received credit for assignments in that group have graduated. It was unconstitutional to vote on candidacy elections via Canvas surveys, and officer elections are more easily handled in person.

COMMENTARY ON OF POSITIVE GRADING

One Canvas assignment shall be created for every event and each roll call at regular meetings. A score of 1/1 shall be granted for those present and of 0/1 for those absent. Members with excused absences shall receive a score of “ex”/1 or excused. A 10-minute grace period will follow the first roll call at regular meetings. All Canvas surveys shall be of the “Graded Survey” type, and shall automatically assign each member a score of 1/1 upon completion

Candidacy events, regular meetings, community service projects, and college service projects are heavily weighted because it is vital for members to attend them. Engineering futures has its own category because it is a beneficial professional development opportunity and the Chapter must meet attendance requirements per the Association’s policies. Other events and questionnaires serve as catch-all categories in which miscellaneous events and Canvas surveys reside. Canvas surveys require zero physical effort and can be completed anywhere, so it is assumed that members wishing to maintain satisfactory or outstanding status will complete all surveys.

COMMENTARY ON NEGATIVE GRADING

Note that the Canvas gradebook does not support negative weighting of assignment groups, so negative grades are instead accomplished by assigning negative scores for individual assignments inside the “negative” groups.

Former versions of this policy included multiple negative categories. There is now only one such category for debts owed to the Chapter. Where most categories contain many Canvas assignments, fines and assessments are tracked using only one placeholder assignment, and if X represents the number of whole dollars that a member originally owed the Chapter and Y represents the number of whole dollars that a member has repaid, then their grade in the placeholder assignment shall be $-(X-Y)/1$, not to exceed 0. Therefore, every whole dollar owed will drop a member’s overall Canvas score by roughly one percentage point, if they have active assignments in each current category and so long as the weight of the Debts Category is 1%.

The second category was for regular meeting absences. With this category, it was determined that negatively weighted categories mechanically derailed the Canvas gradebook. Therefore, negative scores were granted inside positive categories instead. Assigning negative grades for absences and zeros for attendances still caused all members’ grades to drop due to scores of 0/1 inside a positively weighted category. The thought was to then only assign a score of $-1/1$ for each absence, “-“/1 or no score for attendance, and “ex”/1 for excused absences. This solved the former issue but created a new problem where the only two possible scores in the absences category were -100% or void. Ultimately, the absences category was deleted and replaced by a regular meetings attendance category on March 23, 2025.